

Serial No. 10/644,129

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office action of April 5, 2006, claims 1-7, 10-11, 16-17, 19, and 20 are rejected with claims 8-9, 12-15, and 18 objected to. In particular, claims 1, 5-7, and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fogarty et al. USPN 5,824,037; and claims 16-17 were rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Chobotov et al. USPN 6,395,019. In addition claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fogarty in view of Lenker '158. Claims 8-9, 12-15 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but found allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner did not provide the status of claims 2-4, other than to indicate on the Summary Sheet that they were rejected, an oversight that was repeated from the First Office Action. Examiner Gherbi was on extended leave, but a call to the Examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, on August 4, 2006 did not result in any clarification of the status of these claims.

Applicants have elected to amend and rewrite the claims that were found allowable if rewritten in independent form in order to put the application in condition for allowance. By this amendment, Claim 1 is being amended such that the second edge of the cuff portion now comprises one of a 'frayed' or a 'fringed' portion, limitations added in allowable dependent claims 8 and 9. Therefore claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 and 10 are allowable. Claims 8 and 9 are hereby cancelled.

With regard to independent Claim 11, Applicants have amended the claim to include the limitation of the cuff portion comprising "a band of material situated therearound." from allowable Claim 14 such that Claim 11 is now allowable, as well as previously allowable Claims 12 and 13, which Applicants elect to have remain dependent from now-allowable Claim 11 rather than be rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 is hereby cancelled. Claim 15 is amended to now depend from amended Claim 11 instead of allowable Claim 14, so that it is now allowable as well.

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Applicants have amended independent Claim 16 to include the limitation "wherein the outer cuff portion comprises a frayed portion" from allowable Claim 18, thereby making Claim 16 and dependent claims 17,19 and 20 allowable. Claim 18 is hereby cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request that claims remaining in this case now be passed to issue. Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, Applicants' representative requests a telephone interview with the Examiner should any unresolved issues remain after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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